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Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

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Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (b): Container Control Programme

1. The working group held one meeting on 23 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Sea containers remain an important transport vector for trafficking organizations in the movement of bulk shipments of illicit drugs;

(b) The quantity of cocaine transported in sea containers, intercepted by authorities, is increasing;

(c) It is crucial that law enforcement authorities that are screening freight in the context of the international supply chain establish close networking connections with one another to encourage confidence-building and the sharing of information about those involved in illicit drug trafficking.

2. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) The targeting and profiling of sea containers is more effective when there is an established platform for information-sharing between border control agencies, as well as close coordination in their operational responses;

(b) Additional efforts are needed to ensure that interception by border control authorities of illicit drugs transported in containers is effectively followed through with an investigation into those responsible for this trafficking;

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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(c) The UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme is contributing significantly to building essential capacities within border agencies to efficiently address illicit drug trafficking in sea containers and as such, should continue to be supported through the provision of financial support by donors to UNODC and the provision of substantive and technical expertise by Member States to enable the establishment of new operational units and the further professional development of the established operations.

3. The working group made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to work closer with drug source countries and transit States through capacity-building programmes such as the UNODC/WCO container control programme;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to assist other countries in investigating drug seizures made in containerized freight destined for Europe, so as to secure the conviction of those who organized these shipments as well as the dismantlement of the organized crime networks who profit from their operation;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to support source countries with law enforcement experts to improve the technical skills and professional knowledge of their border law enforcement agencies to assess the threat and to design appropriate measures to counter organized crime groups involved in illicit drug trafficking through their territories.